

this one instance, supported by the Lions Clubs of Nebraska, supported by Nebraska's eyebank, supported by surgeons who are involved in the process, once again I want to remind you we are not transplanting organs, just simply tissue. I hope, members, that you will see fit to allow at least fifteen to date blind citizens in Nebraska to have what they long have waited for and oppose Senator Pirsch's amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature and Senator Wiitala, this is a difficult issue to deal with. It is not quite as simple as might be, as might appear on the surface. I don't think the quantity of tissue is what should determine how we vote on this bill. The issue is whether or not under these circumstances any portion of a person's body can be taken under these circumstances. If you once say the principle exists that a person other than the deceased can make this decision with reference to corneal tissue, then only under the circumstances of a coroner ordered autopsy, a very logical argument could be made that once that principle has been accepted, why should you limit it only to an autopsy situation. If it is valid to accept the tissue under these circumstances to help people who might need it, then if an accident has occurred and there may not be an autopsy ordered, why not allow a member of the family or whoever gives orders with reference to the disposition of the remains, give that person the authority to allow the cornea to be taken even if no autopsy is ordered. Then if you say that the cornea can be taken, suppose there is somebody who might can use veins or skin or whatever, we don't know what advancements are going to be made by medical science, so if the principle is put in place and the quantity of tissue is what we are going to talk about, then you could justify taking a little skin or a little bone marrow or a little this or a little that. But I still say now what I said the first day, everybody who votes for this bill ought to sign a card saying that their eyes can be donated upon their death, and if they don't do that, then I see at least an inconsistency and there may be something more than that. I am not sure how you ought to vote on Senator Pirsch's motion but I know that under the circumstances I cannot support the bill no matter what is done with it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins, do you wish recognition?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, I understand....